

I coauthored a law called FAST-41, which improves the permitting process for these big projects by requiring Agencies to work together to set out a plan and a timeline for permitting projects.

It also created the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council, which can help resolve disputes over the permitting process and get a green light on a project much more quickly. FAST-41 has worked. It has helped projects save billions of dollars and years of time, all while upholding environmental standards.

The bipartisan infrastructure bill expanded the Council's authorities and made it permanent, and the recent fiscal year 2022 government funding bill included \$10 million for the Council to help support its operations. I urge the Biden administration to use this FAST-41 process to reduce bureaucratic redtape in permitting these projects so we can deliver the liquefied natural gas to Europe, as we promised, in a timely fashion so that we can begin to reduce their dependency on Russian oil and stop sending billions of dollars to fund the Russian war machine.

This is where energy security and national security come together. We need to lead our European allies in doing all we can to sanction Russia's energy sector.

We have talked a lot about cutting off the natural gas and the revenue that fuels the war machine in Russia, but we also need to tighten up these bank sanctions as they relate to energy. As an example, it is simply unacceptable that sanctions against Russia's biggest banks, including VTB Bank, do not apply to energy transactions until June 24. This is simply too late. We need to act much more quickly.

While President Biden was in Poland, inside Ukraine, Russian missiles were striking cities all across the country, including the western city of Lviv, not very far from the Polish border.

President Biden must lead the alliance to redouble their efforts to stop this madness to ensure Russia is not rewarded for its war crimes. It is one thing to keep the alliance together; it is another to lead the alliance out of its comfort zone to a more aggressive stance to actually win this war.

So in addition to the energy and other sanctions we have discussed tonight, what more can we and our allies do to help Ukraine win this war? And note I say "win this war" because if we act swiftly, I think we can help Ukraine actually win and keep Ukraine as a viable democracy and save thousands of lives. But they need our help, especially to stop the missiles and artillery that are raining down on civilians every day and every night. As we talk here tonight, this is happening in Ukraine.

The Ukrainians have made it very clear they desperately need more air defense. President Zelenskyy talked

about it again in the last 24 hours. Based on the news media reports, the United States is providing some SA-8s, an older, Soviet-era defense system, to Ukraine. I was glad to hear that. However, the media reports also say that the more capable S-300 Soviet-era systems we have in our inventory are not being sent. If this is true, this is a big disappointment and shows a lack of urgency.

While I commend the President for the strong speech he delivered over the weekend, the actions of the administration have to match that rhetoric. There are additional weapons that they are desperately needing that we are not yet providing, particularly these anti-air systems and more munitions for their own anti-air systems. Often it is a matter of us facilitating the transfer of these weapons from former Warsaw Pact countries that are all along the border—the Eastern European, Central European countries that are close to Ukraine and can provide these incredibly important military anti-air systems, but we need to help them. We need to facilitate that and backfill their needs at home.

They have asked for our help across the board, but specifically for tanks, for anti-ship systems, which is really important right now because so many of these missiles are coming from these ships in the Black Sea.

President Zelenskyy needs to be listened to. He knows what they need. He says: We need more, and we need it more quickly.

We must also keep sending Stinger missiles, which are effective at shooting down Russian helicopters and planes at lower altitudes.

We must find ways to quickly provide Ukraine with more armed drones, such as the Turkish TB2s and one-use loitering munitions, which the Ukrainians know how to use and have been very effective on the battlefield with.

Two weeks ago, it was announced that we were sending 100 so-called Switchblade loitering munitions. One hundred will go very quickly. We need to send more, and we need to send them quickly.

To our Israeli friends, I would ask them to sell to us or other countries, and we should agree to buy, their Harop drones, which Ukraine could really use right now. The bottom line is we need to flood the zone when it comes to providing Ukraine with military assistance.

They are not asking us to fight for them, but they are asking for the tools to be able to defend themselves, particularly with regard to this endless bombing. And they have a chance to win if we do that. There should be no gaps in our weapons transfers. We need to lead the NATO allies and others when it comes to providing and coordinating support.

There are loopholes in the sanctions we talked about tonight. We need to do more to ensure that those are closed. We need to do more to ensure that the weapons are being received.

We should act fast to let the people of Ukraine know with certainty that we do stand with them. The popular Ukrainian national rallying cry "Slava Ukraini" when translated into English is "Glory to Ukraine." The response to it is "Glory to the Heroes," "Heroyam Slava."

In the midst of this atrocity, there are so many heroes, and we need to back them up. There are so many heroes to glorify in Ukraine: the soldiers, professionals, and civilians who have taken up arms; the doctors and the nurses and the firefighters; and the volunteers providing food and water and blankets. We pray for them all, and we pray for their families. Godspeed to them in their simple quest, a battle for a free and independent Ukraine, a country that can chart its own course.

America needs to stand with the people of Ukraine. We must show the world, both our adversaries and our allies, that we stand with Ukraine.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The majority leader.

NOMINATION OF LISA DENELL COOK

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, in a few moments I will file a discharge petition to move forward on the nomination of Lisa DeNell Cook to serve on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors.

Not very long ago, a nominee like Ms. Cook would have sailed toward final confirmation. She serves on the advisory board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. She is a professor of economics at Michigan State and has served on the White House Council of Economic Advisers. She would also be the first Black woman to sit on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors.

Sadly, every single Republican in the committee voted in lockstep against Ms. Cook—that was in the Banking Committee—providing no good explanation for obstructing this qualified and historic nominee.

Nonetheless, the step I am taking now will make sure Ms. Cook's nomination will move forward, setting up a vote as soon as tomorrow.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 672.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Judith DelZoppo Pryor, of Ohio, to be First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2025.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.